What is claimed is:

1. A method of diagnosing a matrix metalloproteinase-1 related disease in a patient comprising detecting in the patient matrix metalloproteinase-1 containing the Ets transcription factor binding site single nucleotide polymorphism.

2. A method of prognosticating a matrix metalloproteinase-1 related disease in a patient suffering from a matrix metalloproteinase-1 related disease comprising detecting in the patient matrix metalloproteinase-1 containing the Ets transcription factor binding site single nucleotide polymorphism.

3. A kit for diagnosing and prognosticating MMP-1 related diseases in a patient sample comprising a means for detecting matrix metalloproteinase-1 containing the Ets transcription factor binding site single nucleotide polymorphism in a patient sample.

4. A method of identifying potential therapeutic agents for treatment of a matrix metalloproteinase-1 related disease comprising determining a potential therapeutic agent's ability to inhibit binding of a transcription factor to an Ets transcription factor binding site of single nucleotide polymorphism matrix metalloproteinase-1.

5. A method of treating patients suffering from a matrix metalloproteinase-1 related disease comprising administering to the patient an agent which inhibits binding of a transcription factor to an Ets transcription factor binding site of single nucleotide polymorphism matrix metalloproteinase-1.